

east by the Taconic Range and to the west by the Catskill Mountains.

At Newburgh Bay, the Hudson's shoreline broadens. As it passes Storm King Mountain and West Point, the river becomes deep, narrow and turbulent. It flows past Bear Mountain and the Palisades, towering cliffs that flank the river from north of the Tappan Zee Bridge to the boroughs of Brooklyn and Staten Island. The river meets the Atlantic Ocean at one of America's most important ports, New York Harbor.

In the river's southern reaches, the mixing of the Atlantic Ocean's salt water with the fresh water from the Adirondacks and the Hudson's tributaries creates an estuary that nourishes a spectacular wealth of biodiversity. A total of 206 species of fish have been recorded in the Hudson, along with migrating raptors, butterflies, songbirds and waterfowl which rely upon its tidal marshes and uplands for food and shelter. The estuary also serves as a major spawning ground for the Atlantic commercial fishery. This spring, for the first time in more than a century, a pair of bald eagles successfully hatched and fledged an eaglet, a powerful symbol of the rebirth of the river.

C. Economic and Demographic Life of the River Valley

For more than two centuries, no other region of the country has been the site of such significant cultural, environmental and industrial history. From its headwaters in the Adirondack High Peaks to New York Harbor, the river connects New York's northern forests to one of the world's great cities.

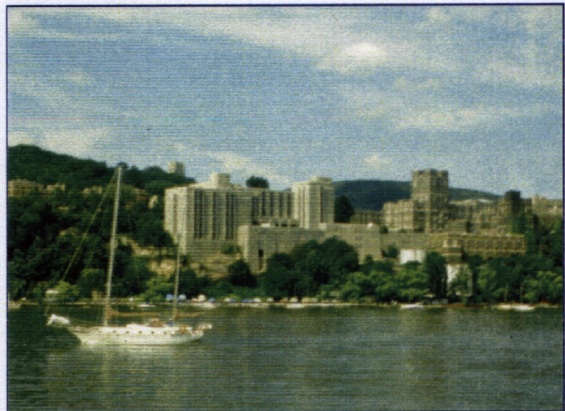
Like the river itself, the demographics and economy of the Hudson River Valley change along the river's length, but the dominant features have remained unchanged for generations. Agriculture and tourism continue to be the mainstays of the region's economy, although the dynamics of these forces have shifted and a new generation of innovative industries is beginning to emerge.

At its northern end, within the 6-million acre Adirondack Park, there are 130,000 permanent residents whose livelihoods depends upon forestry, tourism, education and recreation. More than 8 million people live in the Hudson River Valley, including the 5.3 million residents of New York City.

From the beginning, the Hudson served as the nation's first great commercial transportation artery, linking New York City to the west by the Erie Canal and to the coal mines of Pennsylvania by the Delaware and Hudson Canal. The Hudson was the setting for some of the most significant American industrial and commercial enterprises of the 19th century, including the West Point Foundry, the first steamships and the iron mills of Troy. Port cities like Newburgh, Kingston and Poughkeepsie stimulated agricultural development in surrounding counties.

After World War II, businesses such as IBM, General Motors and General Electric invested heavily in the Hudson River Valley. The suburbanization of the Valley was accelerated by the construction of one of the nation's busiest commuter railroad networks and the expansion of the interstate highway system.

As the lower Hudson River Valley became an increasingly popular bedroom community for the New York City metropolitan area, agricultural land in the Valley came under tremendous pressure. Today, approximately one million acres of the Hudson River Valley are farmland; farming is the Valley's second largest industry after





tourism. The region's diverse agricultural enterprises include dairies, orchards, a growing horticultural industry and creative gourmet products such as field greens and goat cheese. Hudson Valley wines have recently achieved national recognition.

Other natural resources are equally important to the Valley's economy. From April through June 1997, the striped bass recreational fishery industry produced a direct local economic value of nearly \$2 million. The Hudson River is one of the few places in America where shad are still fished commercially.

Urban revitalization has restored some of the downtown areas in the Hudson Valley, especially in Yonkers, Kingston, Troy and Albany, while innovative leadership has attracted artists and

antique dealers to the streets of Cold Spring, Peekskill, Beacon and Hudson. Many historic downtowns and vacant urban waterfronts, while left relatively intact, are in need of redevelopment. Development plans include water-related development, providing extensive public access to the river. These redevelopment projects will transform former industrial and commercial sites all along the Hudson River into restaurants, parks, marinas and other tourist destinations.

Canal revitalization programs and the lifting of the ban on catch-and-release fishing in the upper Hudson are bringing renewed recreational and tourist industries to the area, and a needed boost to the local economy. Saratoga County has recently emerged as a major retail distribution center. In the past year, Kleenex, Ace Hardware and Wal-Mart have all located major warehouses in the county, bringing \$6 million in capital investments and 400 new jobs to the upper Hudson River Valley.

Other kinds of development also continue to flourish. In November, IBM announced it would invest \$700 million — its largest facility investment ever — at Fishkill, Dutchess County. The Valley is also becoming more ethnically diverse as the African-American, Asian and Hispanic populations in many Hudson Valley communities continue to grow.

II. NOTABLE RESOURCE QUALITIES OF THE AREA

The Hudson River and its Estuary

The Hudson River estuary, which extends for 154 miles of the river's 315-mile length, is a unique natural resource of regional and national significance. It is the spawning ground for major species of Atlantic coast fish such as striped bass and shad, and provides an important gene pool for wild stocks of species such as the sturgeon, which are facing worldwide decline. It is the flyway for migratory birds — ducks, geese, osprey — which stop to feed in the Hudson's shallows. It is a refuge for rare and endangered species of animals and plants such as bald eagles and heartleaf plantain. Its watershed contains drainage basins from five surrounding states.

Agriculture

From the Adirondacks to New York City, the Hudson flows past almost one million acres of farmland. The distinctive Hudson River ecosystem is ideal for grapes and apples. The Hudson River Valley is home to the first significant grape vine plantings in the United States, as well as the nation's oldest (1839) continuously operating winery. The Valley also is home to the unique "black dirt" region of Orange County, an area of highly productive soils for growing onions, lettuce and other vegetables.

History

The Hudson River runs deep through the cultural, historic and economic heart of our nation. The Hudson played a vital role in nearly every era in American history.

The American Revolution and the Colonial Era

The Hudson River Valley played a key role in the Revolutionary War, as it did in political and commercial life during the colonial era of the 17th and 18th centuries. Significant battles and wartime events took place in New York Harbor, on Manhattan Island, and at White Plains, Stony Point, the Hudson Highlands and West Point, New Windsor/Newburgh, and Saratoga. The British hoped to divide the states by controlling the Hudson; their failure was key to America's victory. Most of the major Revolutionary War battlefields and military headquarters in the Hudson Valley have been preserved by the State and Federal governments. In 1850, George Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh on the Hudson became the first protected State historic site in the nation.

Industrial America

Troy and Cohoes were principal sites for the Industrial Revolution in North America in the late 18th century. The Hudson became America's premier industrial and commercial river in the 19th century, following the launching of the steamboat *Clermont* in 1807 and the construction of the Erie, Champlain and Delaware & Hudson canals. At the same time, New York City became the dominant American port. Providing access to western produce and to coastal and international markets, the canals fostered a booming mercantile trade and were essential to



the settlement of the Great Lakes area. The construction of the railroads later in the century consolidated this role while gradually supplanting water-borne commerce.

Landscape Painting, Landscape Design, Literature and Architecture

The Hudson Valley scenery inspired the Knickerbocker writers, one of America's first literary movements, and the Hudson River School of Painters, launching the newly independent American nation in the world of arts and letters and crafting our national identity and culture. The breathtaking scenery from which these writers and artists drew inspiration has remained relatively unspoiled by subsequent development.

The Hudson was also the birthplace of American landscape architecture. Several properties designed according to the naturalistic principles of Downing, Vaux and Olmsted remain in the Hudson River Valley today, recalling a time when harmony with nature was expressed in many aspects of life, including the design of homes, gardens, cemeteries and parks.

Immigration and the Movement West

America's role as a haven for refugees from persecution and poverty, symbolized by the Statue of Liberty, is a vital element of our history and culture. For nearly 400 years our shores have drawn immigrants seeking opportunity, freedom and justice. More than 20 million immigrants entered America through Ellis Island, at the mouth of the Hudson, enriching the culture and economy of the state and the nation. In the 19th century, these immigrants built America's canals and railroads, supplied the factories of the burgeoning industrial